DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 437 321 SO 031 269

AUTHOR	Frese, Millie K., Ed.
TITLE	Herbert and Lou Henry Hoover.
INSTITUTION	Iowa State Historical Society, Iowa City.
ISSN	ISSN-0278-0208
PUB DATE	1999-00-00
NOTE	34p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Goldfinch, State Historical Society of Iowa, 402 Iowa Avenue, Iowa City, IA 52240. Tel: 319-335-3916.
PUB TYPE	Collected Works - Serials (022) -- Guides - Classroom - Learner (051)
JOURNAL CIT	Goldfinch: Iowa History for Young People; v21 n1 Fall 1999
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Community Involvement; *Cultural Enrichment; Elementary Education; Local History; *Presidents of the United States; *Social Studies; State History; *United States History
IDENTIFIERS	Celebrations; Festivals; Historical Background; *Hoover (Herbert); Hoover (Lou Henry); *Iowa

ABSTRACT

This issue of the children's magazine, "The Goldfinch," focuses on Herbert and Lou Henry Hoover. The articles included are: (1) "Getting To Know Herbert Clark Hoover"; (2) "Lou Henry Hoover"; (3) "Meet an Iowa Author"; (4) "The Great Depression"; (5) "A Different Kind of Coupon"; (6) "The President's Mountain School"; (6) "Where are the Books?"; (7) "Quaker Traditions across Generations"; (8) "'Dear Mr. Hoover,' Letters from Children to the President"; and (9) "Peek into Lou Henry Hoover's Scrapbooks." Activities about political cartoons, managing a museum, being a history detective, and playing games are included. (LB)

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Herbert and Lou Henry Hoover

Millie K. Frese, Editor

The Goldfinch: Iowa History for Young People

State Historical Society of Iowa

Vol. 21
No. 1
Fall 1999

SO 031 269

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THE Goldfinch

Iowa History for Young People

Volume 21, Number 1 • Fall 1999 • $4

Herbert and Lou Henry HOOVER

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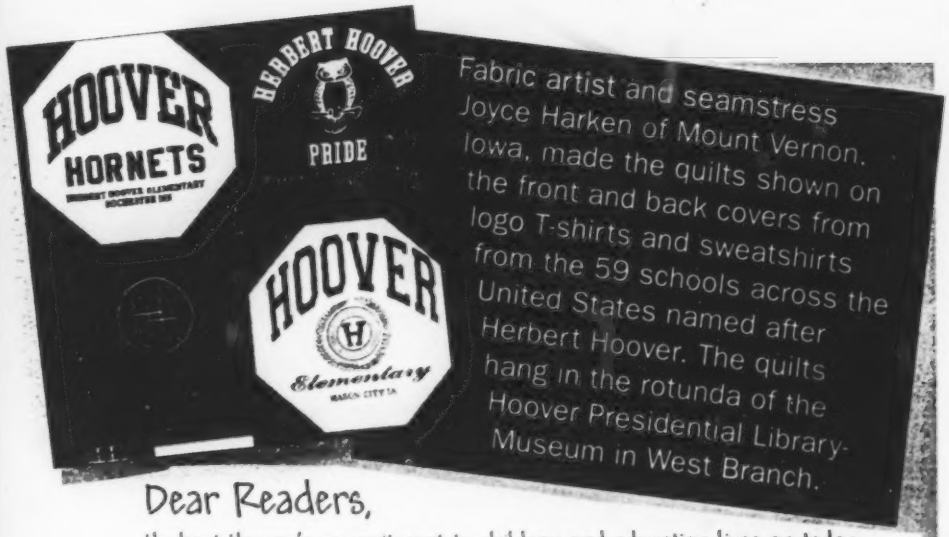

Fabric artist and seamstress Joyce Harken of Mount Vernon, Iowa, made the quilts shown on the front and back covers from logo T-shirts and sweatshirts from the 59 schools across the United States named after Herbert Hoover. The quilts hang in the rotunda of the Hoover Presidential Library-Museum in West Branch.

On the Cover

Dear Readers,

Herbert Hoover's commitment to children and education lives on today. There are 59 schools named after Hoover located from Massachusetts to California. Twelve schools named in honor of the thirty-first president of the United States are in Iowa, Hoover's boyhood home. Discussing this issue of *The Goldfinch* with a few students at Herbert Hoover Elementary in Iowa City gave them a chance to reflect on their school's namesake.

"It's neat to think that I go to a school that Herbert Hoover visited when it first opened," said Caroline Howard, a fifth grader. "I like to think about him standing in my classroom or maybe walking up and down the hallways."

Kerry Kamber, a recent graduate of Hoover Elementary, commented, "I walked past his picture at the front entrance of our school almost every day for seven years. I'd like to read more about him."

This issue traces the lives of Herbert and Lou Henry Hoover through their childhood years in Iowa, education, careers, world travels, efforts to feed hungry kids in Belgium during World War I, the presidency, Great Depression, and beyond. You'll also meet an Iowa author who wrote a biography of First Lady Lou Henry Hoover for kids. See if you can figure out the meanings of political cartoons and try exercising the Hoover Way!

—The Editor

P.S. Is your school named after someone famous? Is it named after someone from your community? Find out, then share your school story with *The Goldfinch*.

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THE Goldfinch
Volume 21, Number 1 • Fall 1999

Educational Press Association of America Member

Winner of a 1998 Parents' Choice Silver Honor Award

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PHOTO CREDITS: All photos, unless otherwise noted, are courtesy of the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum.

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The Goldfinch (ISSN 0278-0208) is published three times each school year by the State Historical Society of Iowa, 402 Iowa Avenue, Iowa City, Iowa 52240-1806 (319/335-3916). Second-class postage paid at Iowa City, Iowa. Subscriptions are $9.95 per year.

Postmaster: Send address changes to: Carol Carey, subscriptions coordinator, *The Goldfinch*, State Historical Society of Iowa, 402 Iowa Avenue, Iowa City, Iowa 52240-1806. © State Historical Society of Iowa, 1999. No portion of *The Goldfinch* may be reproduced without prior permission except for classroom use.

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In this issue...

Herbert Hoover is the only United States President—so far—to be born in Iowa. Learn more about him in this issue of *The Goldfinch*!

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Visit the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum web site at:

http://www.hoover.nara.gov

Tour the museum galleries, take a quiz on Hoover's life, and check out the "Just for Kids" page.

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Getting to know Herbert Clark Hoover

Herbert Hoover was a famous—and wealthy—engineer when World War I stranded 120,000 Americans in Europe. Unprepared for the consequences of a war, they were trapped on the wrong side of the Atlantic.

Hoover, who lived in London at the time, received an urgent request from the U.S. Ambassador to Britain to help the Americans get home.

Within 24 hours, Hoover and his wife, Lou, organized 500 volunteers who distributed food, clothing, steamer tickets, and cash to desperate travelers.

"I did not realize it at the moment, but on August 3, 1914, my engineering career was over forever," Hoover said. "I was on the slippery road of public life."

Hoover's career in public service begins here, but the story of his life doesn't begin with fame and wealth. He was born in a two-room cottage by the Wapsinonoc Creek in West

1874

Herbert Clark Hoover was born in West Branch, Iowa.

ca. 1882—Hoover spent nine months with his aunt and uncle, Agnes and Laban Miles, on the Osage Reservation in Indian Territory.

1885

Hoover moved to Oregon, where he Attended Friends Pacific Academy in Newburg. He did not attend high school.

1891

Entered Stanford University in 1891 and graduated in 1895.

Hoover at Stanford

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Branch, Iowa, on August 10, 1874. He had an older brother, Theodore (known as Tad), and a younger sister, Mary (known as May). Herbert's nickname was Bertie.

The Hoover children loved to hike, explore, swim, fish, and hunt for fossils and agates in the gravel along the railroad tracks. They hunted rabbit and prairie chicken with bows and arrows and made their own fishing poles with willow branches, butcher string, and hooks that cost a penny apiece.

Hoover's father, Jesse, was a blacksmith. "I carry the brand of Iowa," Hoover once said, recalling the time when, at age five, he walked barefoot into his father's shop. He stepped on a glowing ember and had a scar on the bottom of his foot for the rest of his life.

Jesse Hoover died in 1880 at the age of 34.

Hoover's mother, Hulda, was very active in the town's Quaker congregation. She taught her children to value education, hard work, plain living, and thrift. After Jesse's death, Hulda earned money working as a seamstress. She also traveled and spoke at Quaker meetings and revivals throughout Iowa. In 1884, she died of pneumonia and typhoid fever. Herbert Hoover was only nine years old.

Now orphans, Bertie, Tad, and May were separated to live with different relatives. Herbert lived on a farm near West Branch with his Uncle Allan Hoover's family for about a year, then boarded a train bound for Oregon. He was 11 years old. Two dimes were sewn into his clothes and he carried a basket of food prepared by his aunt.

Hoover spent six years in Oregon living with his Uncle Henry Minthorn. "My boyhood ambition was to be able to earn my own living without the help of anybody, anywhere," he said. He learned bookkeeping and typing in his uncle's real estate office and attended business school in the evening.

In 1891, Hoover entered Stanford University in Palo Alto, California. He started a laundry service for students to earn money for room and board. He also did odd jobs for his geology professor and got a summer job mapping the terrain in the Ozark Mountains in Arkansas.

Hoover played shortstop on the Stanford baseball team—until his teammates suggested he'd make a better manager. He arranged games,

1899

Married Lou Henry in California.

1900

Worked in China as a consultant to the Chinese government in developing mines. The Tang Sang mine in northern china is pictured below.

1903

Herbert Hoover Jr.(right) born in London.

1907

Allan Hoover (left) born in London.

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raised money for uniforms and equipment, and collected 25 cents each from townspeople who came to watch Stanford play ball. Under Hoover's management, the team saved so much money that Stanford could afford a football team. They chose Hoover to manage that, too. Once, 20,000 people showed up to watch a game, but there were only 15,000 seats. But Hoover had a bigger problem: Californians didn't use much paper money. Most of the fans paid for their tickets in silver and gold. Hoover hurried to nearby houses to borrow dishpans to hold all the money. The next day, Hoover helped carry washtubs filled with over $30,000 in coins to the bank.

Hoover graduated from Stanford in 1895 with a degree in geology. He was 20 years old with $40 in his pocket when he got his first job shoveling ore in a California mine earning $2 for every ten-hour shift.

Hoover worked his way to the top of his profession. A typing job for Louis Janin, an expert on western mining, led to Hoover's appointment as assistant manager of the Steeple Mine at Carlisle, New Mexico. In 1896, Janin recommended Hoover for a position with the British mining firm of Bewick, Moreing and Company. Soon Hoover was sailing for London, then on to Australia. He traveled inland to Coolgardie, which Hoover described as a place full of "red dust, black flies, and white heat." His job: to sample, survey, and evaluate mines that were offered to his firm for purchase.

When the mining company offered Hoover a position in China—and a raise—Hoover cabled his college sweetheart, Lou Henry, with a proposal of marriage. He traveled to China by way of California, where he stopped long enough for their wedding. After the ceremony, Herbert and Lou Henry Hoover boarded a train that took them to the ship on which they'd sail to China.

Hoover learned a lot about technology and management in Australia. He put this knowledge to good use in China, where he managed mines, dealt with major economic problems, and helped foreign families in China survive the Boxer Rebellion.

Between 1901 and 1912, the Hoover family (which grew to include two sons) circled the globe five times. He started his own company in 1908, and established a home base for his family in London.

Australia ➡

1901 to 1912

The Hoovers traveled all over the world.

Japan

1921

Hoover inspects European Relief Council Supplies, January, 1921.

Suez Canal ➡

Helping stranded travelers at the beginning of World War I set Herbert and Lou Hoover's public life in motion. His next task: to feed the nation of Belgium during the war. Germany was occupying the tiny country, which relied on imports for food. Wartime blockades prevented food from getting to starving people. Hoover had to find enough food to feed 10 million people every day. He needed money to pay for the food, trucks and ships to carry it, and volunteers to distribute it fairly. Hoover did not accept a salary for his work with the Committee for Relief of Belgium—in fact, he never accepted payment for any public service position he held. Even as president, he donated the salary he earned to charity.

When the United States entered World War I in 1917, President Woodrow Wilson appointed Hoover as the U.S. Food Administrator. Hoover called on Americans to voluntarily conserve food. This became known as "Hooverizing." His slogan was "Food Will Win the War," and his programs, according to Hoover Library sources, reduced domestic consumption of food by 15% without rationing so that the U.S. could supply American and other Allied armies with food.

Hoover became Secretary of Commerce after Warren G. Harding was elected president in 1920 and remained in this position under President Calvin Coolidge.

In 1928, Herbert Hooverwas elected President of the United States.

Seven months after Hoover's inauguration, the stock market crashed. The Great Depression had begun. One of the most popular presidents ever elected, people lost confidence in Hoover because of the economic crisis. To learn more about the Great Depression, what caused it, and how the nation got through it, turn to page 12.

Hoover was defeated for reelection by Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932, and the Hoovers returned to the home they had built on the Stanford University campus. But his election defeat was not the end of his work. "No former President can, or should cease from public service," Hoover wrote while answering a child's letter. Turn to page 13 to learn more about Hoover's work in the years following his presidency.

While such things are possible there is nothing very wrong with our country.

Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum dedicated.

Herbert Hoover died at the age of 90.

1929 **1947** **1962** **1964**

On March 4, 1929, Herbert Hoover was inaugurated as the 31st president of the United States.

Headed first Hoover Commission for President Truman.

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Lou Henry Hoover

by Nancy A. Colbert

Lou Henry is dressed for ice skating in Waterloo, Iowa, 1884.

When Lou Henry Hoover was a young girl in Iowa, she never dreamed that someday she would travel the world and eventually become First Lady of the United States. At the time Lou was born in Waterloo, Iowa, on March 29, 1874, girls usually grew up learning to do the things their mothers did. But Lou's father, Charles Henry, believed girls could do anything boys could do. He and Lou tramped fields and woods, sometimes camping overnight, with Mr. Henry pointing out birds, animals, plants, and rocks.

When Lou was 13, her family moved to Whittier, California. She graduated from State Normal School and planned to be a teacher. Later she enrolled at Stanford University to study geology.

At Stanford, Lou became good friends with a fellow student in geology. His name was Herbert "Bert" Hoover. When Bert graduated and left to work as a mining engineer, they wrote letters to one another. Lou completed her studies and became the first woman in the United States to graduate with a degree in geology. When Bert sent a telegram proposing marriage, Lou responded with a one-word telegram: Yes.

After their wedding, Lou and Bert left for China. Bert worked as a mining engineer and Lou immersed herself in the culture and learned to speak Chinese. They lived in China, Australia, Burma, Egypt, and England. Two sons born to the Hoovers traveled along.

The Hoovers were living in London when World War I began. With the German invasion, famine spread, especially across Belgium. The Atlantic Ocean bristled with warring ships, but Lou crossed to seek help in America. Later, when Bert headed the U.S. Food Administra-

tion. Lou encouraged people to eat wheatless and meatless meals to conserve food during the war. Americans tried to "Hooverize," following Lou's example to use less wheat, meat, and sugar.

Lou organized dinners where plain food was served on tin plates, with an empty high chair to symbolize the "Invisible Guest," a hungry child. One night at a banquet in New York City, Lou raised $3 million for the hungry.

Lou noticed the Girl Scouts working for the war effort, selling bonds and knitting sweaters and socks for soldiers. She joined their work and spent the rest of her life serving the Girl Scouts, including twice as national president and as leader of her own Senior Scouts. "I was a Scout before the movement ever started, when my father took me fishing, camping and hunting," she said.

As vice president of the National Amateur Athletic Federation, Lou promoted equal access for girls to gyms and good coaches. She wanted all young people—not just "stars"—to take part in athletic programs. "Put the fun back into sports," she said.

Lou was a devoted mother, strong social worker, and a real companion to her husband. When Herbert Hoover was elected President of the United States in 1928, she pitched in to work with him to conserve resources and preserve national parks and wildlife refuges. While he created bird sanctuaries, Lou's Girl Scouts banded birds.

The Hoovers came to the White House praised and loved, but less than eight months after Herbert Hoover became President, the world economy crashed. The Great Depression hit the American people and millions lost everything they had. While Bert battled the economic crisis, Lou helped thousands of families who turned to her. If no other forms of assistance could be found, Lou sent anonymous checks drawn from her personal accounts.

On January 7, 1944, Lou died of a heart attack. Later Bert found her desk filled with uncashed checks—repayments for the help she'd quietly given to thousands of people. ❖

Lou Henry Hoover with her dog, Weegie.

Meet an Iowa Author:

Nancy Colbert

by Ben Butler

Nancy Colbert likes to write. She works in an upstairs bedroom filled with books and magazines in her Cedar Rapids, Iowa, home. She has published a book about Lou Henry Hoover, and is in the process of writing one on the battle of Fort Sumter.

Ben Butler, 10, interviews Nancy Colbert, author of *Lou Henry Hoover: The Duty to Serve*

What inspired you to write the book, Lou Henry Hoover: The Duty to Serve?

When my five children were young, my husband and I took them to the Hoover Museum. It was just new then. While everyone else was looking at President Hoover's things, I was looking at Mrs. Hoover's things. She was such an interesting woman, and she did a lot, especially for young girls. I read a lot about her over the years, and I even went to see a play about her, called "First Lady Lou." Then I started to do research, and I wrote to a publisher and asked if they would be interested in a book on Mrs. Hoover. They said, "Yes," so I wrote the book.

What were some of your resources?

The Hoover Museum was where I got most of my information. The play I went to could certainly be called a resource. I got books from the library, although there weren't many on her. I got some books on her husband, and they usually had some information about her in them. I also went to the Hoover Library, which is inside the Hoover Museum. The Hoover Library isn't like an ordinar library. You can't check things out and you have to have special permission to use it. You can make photocopies, though. The Hoover Library has all kinds of interesting stuff, like some of Lou's actua school papers and old photographs.

How long did it take to research and write it

I spent three months going to the museum every day, just like it was a job. And then I spent nine more months writing my book. I also went back to the museum several times to check facts.

What was your favorite part of writing it?

When I finished the first draft.

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Q: What's the hardest part of writing a book?

A: I think the rewriting. Usually when I write, I overwrite. Sometimes I even have to cut a book in half. When I wrote *Lou Henry Hoover: The Duty To Serve*, it had 42,000 words. Now it only has 21,000 words.

Q: Why did you choose to be a writer?

A: I've always liked to write, it's something I can do at home, and I'm just interested in all kinds of things. I like to write stories the best, especially science fiction stories. I like to read science fiction, too.

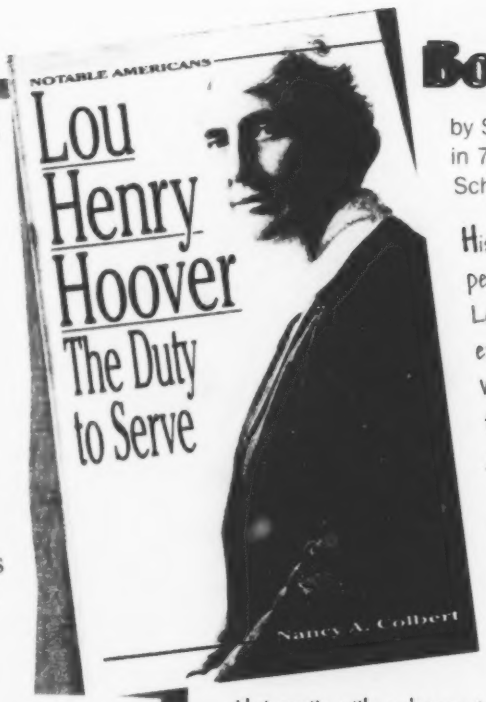
Q: What is the most important thing you think people should know about the Hoovers?

A: I think the most important thing is that they really cared about other people. For instance, when Mr. Hoover was president, there was a Great Depression, which means money lost its value. A lot of people lost their homes and their jobs, and everyone blamed Mr. Hoover. They thought he was a terrible man and that he had caused all this. But really he tried very hard to make things right, and Mrs. Hoover gave away lots of her own money to people.

Q: What is your advice to kids who want to become writers?

A: Read. I was a very good reader when I was young, and I think that's the best thing you can do.

Ben Butler is a member of *The Goldfinch* student advisory board. He lives in Cedar Rapids.



Book Review

by Sarah Frese, 12, who is in 7th grade at Anson Middle School in Marshalltown.

History is full of exciting people and stories—take Lou Henry Hoover, for example. Lou grew up in Waterloo, Iowa, beliving that girls could do anything boys could do, and she set out to prove it. She liked hiking and camping, and was the first woman to graduate from Stanford University with a degree in geology. She later married Herbert Hoover, and wherever his job took their family, she did whatever she could to help them get along—such as learning to speak Chinese when they moved to China. She in turn taught the language to her husband.

When Herbert decided to run for president, Lou joined him in the campaign. He won, but do you think Lou's work was over? Not yet! She went on to become the National President of the Girl Scouts, helped start schools, and traveled around the country and the world helping people during the Great Depression.

Sometimes books don't tell about women's contributions to events in history. I liked this biography because it taught me about what a woman from Iowa did to help many people. Lou Henry Hoover accomplished a lot. I recommend you read Nancy Colbert's book, ***Lou Henry Hoover, The Duty to Serve***.

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The Great Depression

President Hoover was "swept into office by the greatest landslide in American politics," said a radio announcer covering Hoover's inauguration. He came to office brimming with ideas to improve housing, child health, and education. He called a special session of Congress to help American farmers who had not shared in the overall prosperity of the country in the 1920s.

Hoover also warned against wild spending on the stock market. Investors usually buy **stock** (shares in a business) in a company so that, as the business grows and expands, they will receive dividends (shares of business profits). In 1929, people were more eager than ever to buy stocks. The buying craze pushed prices higher and higher. People borrowed money to buy stocks. Then, instead of waiting to make money through dividends, they sold the stock for a quick profit as soon as the stock price went up. Banks also **speculated** in the stock market, using their depositors' money.

Wild speculation causes stock prices to inflate like a bubble. If investors get nervous and sell their stocks, the bubble bursts, causing many people and banks to lose the money they have invested.

That's what happened on October 29, 1929, just seven months after Hoover took office. Everyone who had been frantically buying stocks wanted desperately to sell them. More than 16 million shares were sold in one day as people who bought stocks at high prices sold them for much less. People who had borrowed money to buy stocks couldn't pay the money back. Banks that invested other peoples' savings were ruined. Known as Black Tuesday, this was the start of the Great Depression.

Manufactured goods piled up because people stopped buying, either because they had no money or because they were afraid to spend what money they had left. Store owners couldn't sell the things in their shops, forcing factories to produce less. Cutting production in factories meant cutting jobs. People couldn't find new jobs since almost all businesses were affected. People who worked in agriculture were already struggling; the depression only made it worse.

Millions of people across the country turned to the president for help. Angry, debt-ridden, and hungry, they blamed Hoover for the state of the economy.

Tired of the depression and angered by the slowness of the recovery, American voters did not elect Hoover to a second term in the presidential election of 1932. There were 12 million people unemployed and 18 million on **relief** when the depression reached its lowest point in March, 1933.

The depression ended Hoover's presidency, but it didn't end his role as a public servant. After leaving the White House, he became chairman of the board of Boys' Clubs of America—a cause he served for more

PHOTO: SHSI (Iowa City)

As food administrator during World War I, Hoover urged farmers to produce more food to support U.S. troops and allied armies during the war. Farmers kept producing extra food after the war even after demand dropped off and there were no buyers. The supply of food was greater than the demand, so prices plunged, making it difficult for farmers to make a living. During the depression, many were forced to have auctions to sell their farms.

speculation: buying stocks to resell quickly for a profit rather than purchasing for a long-term investment.

relief: government aid to private citizens who cannot otherwise maintain themselves.

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than 25 years. When war broke out in Europe as Hitler invaded Poland, Hoover, as a private citizen, established the Polish Relief Commission. For two years—until World War II halted the private effort—the commission fed 200,000 children in the German-occupied territory of Poland. For the duration of the war, Hoover led another relief committee that fed the European countries of Belgium, Holland, Finland, and Poland.

After the war famine threatened Europe again. In 1946, President Harry Truman asked Hoover to head the President's Famine Emergency Committee. He organized a plan to deal with the crisis, visiting 25 countries in 57 days.

In 1947, Congress asked Hoover to study the reorganization of the executive branch of the federal government to improve efficiency and eliminate waste. President Dwight Eisenhower asked Hoover to head a similar commission during his presidency. Hoover advised presidents, wrote books and articles, and made public appearances. A reporter who visited Hoover's office in 1960 couldn't believe the former president still worked 8 to 12 hours each day. After all, commented the reporter, the former president was 86 years old. "Yes," replied one of Hoover's secretaries, "but he doesn't know that."

Hoover died on October 30, 1964. A Quaker friend said of Hoover in a eulogy, "He has worked hard; he has been very brave; he has endured." ✣

A Different Kind of Coupon

by Jill Esbaum

Has your town ever issued its own money system? That's what happened in some Iowa towns during the depression of the 1930s.

Beginning in September and October of 1931, money disappeared at an astounding rate. A huge quantity of gold, $30 million worth per day, was leaving the United States. Bank after bank failed, helped along by the fact that frightened people hoarded paper money and coins at the rate of $25 million per day!

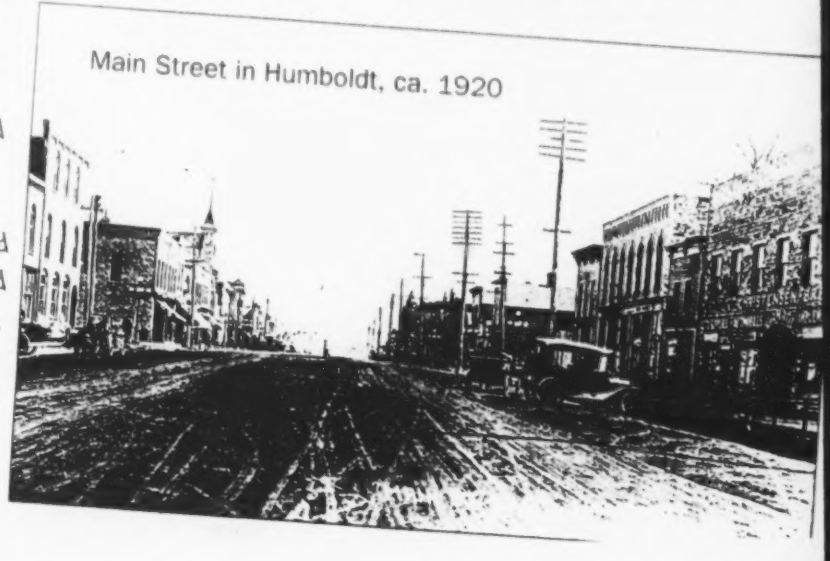
People were soon forced to return to a barter system. Businesses and professional citizens alike traded goods and services, much like their ancestors.

Individual towns sometimes adopted their own money system. In Humboldt, for instance, men were hired to clean streets, repair water hydrants, and do other odd jobs. The men were then paid with coupons, called *scrip*, which were made out in the amount of $1 each.

The holder of the coupon had to attach a 2-cent stamp to the back of the scrip, which was dated and initialed by the owner. Then the scrip could be used as money to buy items at Humboldt businesses.

The first scrip issued in Grinnell, $130 worth, was given to 59 men in payment for cutting 52 tons of wood. The wood was then donated to the poor. In this way, the city was able to help many more families than just those of the men who worked.

How did your town help its citizens during the depression?



Main Street in Humboldt, ca. 1920

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Political Cartoons: What do they mean?

Political cartoons offer a special kind of historical record. They are drawn by artists who interpret and comment on current events. Sometimes they're funny, sometimes serious. Sometimes they capture a stinging truth. Cartoonists draw pictures charged with ideas and attitudes, getting to the heart of complex issues in a small space with few words.

Jay N. "Ding" Darling was an Iowa editorial cartoonist whose work appeared daily on the front page of *The Des Moines Register* for almost three decades. He won the Pulitzer Prize twice for editorial cartooning. Working in the same era as Herbert Hoover, Darling's cartoons mirrored the episodes and stages of Hoover's career.

Study the following cartoons and see if you can figure out Darling's message in each one. ❖

One of those "party line" conversations.

Hoover's career as a mining engineer then as administrator of relief programs in Belgium kept him overseas. As he became a prominent figure in American politics, people wondered about his party affiliation. Would he be a Republican or a Democrat? Both parties wanted to claim Hoover, as this cartoon from January 29, 1920, suggests. What symbols did Darling use to convey his amusement with the squabble over Hoover's party affiliation? What are the two meanings of "party line" that drive home the point of this cartoon?

Need some help? Ask your parents, grandparents, or teachers for help understanding the ideas or words used in political cartoons. For this cartoon, look up the term "party line" in the dictionary for starters!

WANTED
ABOUT A DOZEN SKILLED EXPERTS TO TAKE THE PLACE OF HOOVER
APPLY U.S. COVERT
RESIGNATION
STANDARDIZATION AND WASTE ELIMINATION

When Hoover turns in his resignation.

Hoover served as Secretary of Commerce for eight years under U.S. Presidents Harding and Coolidge. He developed foreign markets for American products, worked to eliminate industrial waste of time, money, and resources, and led efforts to **standardize** thousands of consumer items such as nuts and bolts, paper, tires, plumbing supplies, and window frames. Hoover worked with the Bureau of Standards, which researched safety standards in items such as elevators and auto brakes. Regulation of radio and the airways was part of Hoover's job, too. He was instrumental in developing the Air Commerce Act, which established safety codes and regulations for the nation's aviation industry. And when the Mississippi River flooded in 1927, driving more than a million people from their homes, Hoover headed relief efforts.

Hoover was running for president when this cartoon was published on July 23, 1928, How does Darling's cartoon illustrate Hoover's accomplishments?

Patronage—the power to control who is appointed to government positions—was one of the problems facing Hoover after his election. In this cartoon, published on March 28, 1929—25 days after Hoover's inauguration—Darling uses elements of a traditional feast to symbolize political power. As president, it was Hoover's job to "fill the plates" or distribute the power as he filled positions in his administration. Political appointments were often granted as a reward to friends or political allies. Did Darling think Hoover planned to continue this method of handing out jobs in his administration? How does this cartoon illustrate Hoover's desire to clean things up?

A long needed admonition.

Standardize: to make uniform according to an established measure for size quality etc.

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THE PRESIDENT'S MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

by Delia Ray

In August of 1929, President Hoover received an unexpected gift for his 55th birthday. The Hoovers had been spending the weekend with several close friends at Camp Rapidan, their fishing retreat in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. They were gathered outside, enjoying the peaceful woodland setting, when a young mountain boy emerged from the forest. He was carrying an old soap box covered in chicken wire.

The boy shyly introduced himself as Ray Buraker, then opened his box and presented the President with a birthday gift—a baby possum.

The Hoovers struck up a conversation with the boy. When the president asked where he attended school, Ray replied that he and his seven brothers and sisters had never gone to school. The nearest one, he said, was over at a place called Dark Hollow and much too far to walk to every day.

The Hoovers were dismayed that these children, living only 100 miles from the nation's capital, could have been so overlooked. They sprang into action, raising funds to build a one-room schoolhouse on the mountainside above Camp Rapidan.

Mrs. Hoover and her secretaries conducted a vigorous nationwide search for a teacher, agreeing upon a bright young woman from rural Kentucky named Christine Vest. By February of 1930, dozens of journalists were making their way up the winding, snow-covered roads to report on the opening day of the President's Mountain School.

"Ray Buraker," one newspaper reported, "got up at 5 o'clock this morning to be the first to arrive for the opening of the Hoover School and was so excited that he forgot to eat breakfast."

Despite their demanding schedules, the Hoovers followed the children's progress closely over the next few years. Lou Henry Hoover visited whenever she could, often bringing a picnic lunch to share with the children under the shade of the oak tree in the school yard.

Donations of the finest school supplies arrived from the White House regularly. And when the Madison County Fair opened in the Shenandoah River Valley each autumn, the Hoovers sent money for Miss Vest to take her whole class. For most of the children, it was their first trip off the mountain.

"The fair is over...and we had a wonderful day," Miss Vest wrote in one of her weekly letters to the White House. "We saw alligators, cow-boys, *ponies* for the first time, the merry-go-round, turkey-geese, had *red lemonade* and carried balloons home!"

With the Hoovers' nurturing, the school gradually acquired a life of its own and remained open after the president left office in 1932. Yet, life in the Blue Ridge changed permanently when the Shenandoah National Park was established several years later. Ray Buraker's family and others living around Camp Rapidan were forced to move to homes down in the valley to make room for the park.

Many years later, Miss Vest recorded her fond memories of the President's Mountain School: "I often wonder," she wrote, "what [the children's] lot would have been if they had not had all this preparation before leaving their mountain. Because of the school, they were able to take their place in a normal way and many have done very well and have nice homes and fine families of their own today." ❖

Miss Vest and her students pose for a photograph at the Madison County, Virginia, Fair. Ray Buraker, "the possum boy," is near the back.

WHERE ARE THE BOOKS?

What you will *(and will not)* find in a presidential library!

Most people think of a library as a place to borrow books, tapes, and other resources. Go to a presidential library and you're in for a surprise. You'll tour a museum, dig in to some hands-on exhibits, see a film, conduct research in the archives, attend a workshop, or buy a souvenir in the gift shop.

But you may not see—and you won't check out—any books!

Franklin D. Roosevelt established the first presidential library in 1939. He thought it was important for a president's papers to be preserved and made available to the people. Roosevelt didn't call it a "presidential archive" because he was afraid people wouldn't visit a place with such an academic-sounding name. He wanted the institution to be open—and inviting—to all, so he called it the "Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library."

Since that time, nine more presidential libraries have opened, including Herbert Hoover's in 1962. Each year, more than 1.3 million people of all ages visit presidential libraries—and no one complains about not being able to borrow books!

Herbert Hoover attended the dedication of his presidential library on August 10, 1962.

JUST THE FACTS

• Presidential libraries are like time capsules. Inside, you'll find important documents, records, and letters. These are called the "Presidential Papers." You'll also find photographs, films, and tapes of speeches and press conferences. Campaign buttons and posters, gifts given to the President and First Family, and other items that help people learn

about a president and the time in which he lived are also on display.

• The Hoover Library is the smallest of the presidential libraries. At 47,000 square feet, it contains 8 million documents. Ronald Reagan's library is one of the largest at 124,000 square feet. It contains over 47 million documents.

• The number of visitors and researchers varies widely between presidential libraries. Since 1962, the Hoover Library has served more than 2.6 million visitors and 2,200 scholars.

• Presidents raise the money needed to build their libraries. The federal government becomes responsible for the administration and operation of the libraries after they are built.

• Presidential libraries reflect the personalities of the presidents they honor. At the Hoover library, for example, you'll learn that the president loved dogs, didn't really care for horses, and that the Hoovers collected Chinese porcelain. ❖

WHAT IF YOU WERE IN CHARGE OF A MUSEUM?

What items would you keep and display to illustrate someone's life? _____

_____

_____

Here are some questions that visitors to your museum might ask. What other things do you think they'd want to know?

WHAT DID THEIR HOUSE LOOK LIKE?

(Lou designed this one on the Stanford campus!)

DID THEY HAVE KIDS?

DID THEY LIKE ANIMALS?

(Hoover wasn't fond of horses!)

WHAT DID THEY DO FOR FUN?

If you were president, what papers would you want preserved in your archive? What items would you want to have on display in your museum? _____

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Turn the page to discover a few of the treasures you'll find at the Hoover Birthplace and Presidential Library.

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Be a History Detective: Take a Trip to the Herbert Hoover Birthplace and Presidential Library

When Herbert Hoover was born in 1874, West Branch was a growing community with a population of 350. People in West Branch depended on farming for their livelihood. Those who did not farm operated businesses that supported farming. For example, Hoover's father, Jesse, operated a blacksmith shop and later a farm implement store. Visit the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site today and you step back in time, experiencing life in a 19th-century midwestern farm community. Step into the Library and Museum and gain a better understanding of the life and times of America's 31st president. Here are some of the things you'll see. Can you identify them?

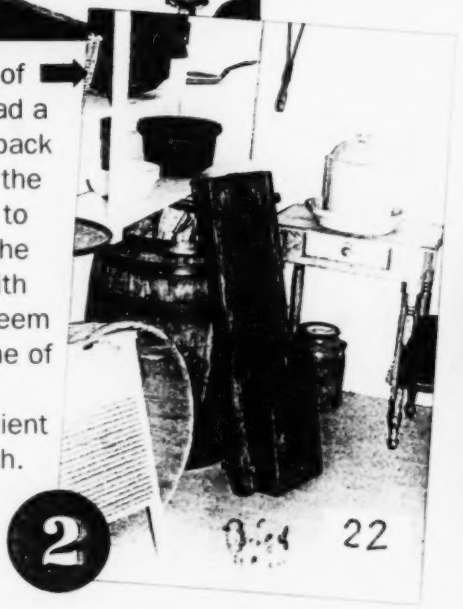
In the Birthplace Cottage...

The 14x20-foot cottage where Herbert Hoover was born seems small by today's standards. The entire family slept in one room. Bert and his older brother, Theodore, slept together in a special type of furniture designed to conserve space. What is it?

Blacksmith Shop...

When Bert was a young boy, his father owned a blacksmith shop. The blacksmith formed horseshoes, hooks and household items from red-hot iron. To keep the fire burning, the blacksmith used an oversized version of an item still found in houses with fireplaces. What is it?

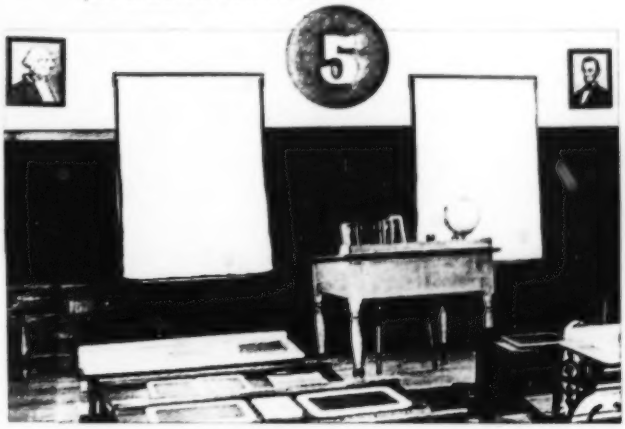
Like other Iowa families of their day, the Hoovers had a summer kitchen on the back porch. In warm months, the stove was located there to keep the home cooler. The kitchen was equipped with many tools that would seem foreign in your home. One of these tools was used to chop up the main ingredient of a popular German dish. What is it?

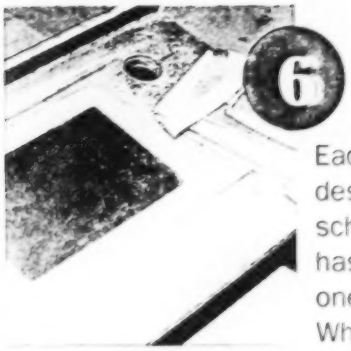


The object above, taken from a real horse, hangs from a beam in the blacksmith shop just as it would hang from a horse. What is it? How did the blacksmith use it?

Schoolhouse...

Portraits of two famous presidents hang on the front wall in the schoolhouse (below). To the left of the teacher's desk is a portrait of George Washington. To the right is a portrait of the 16th president. Who was he?





Each wooden desk in the schoolhouse has a hole in one corner. What's it for?

Quaker Meetinghouse...

Each Quaker meetinghouse had two doors. Why?

Hoover's family worshiped in this simple building. Instead of pews, the Quakers sat on these seats which might remind you of bleachers in a gym. What are they?

The Library...

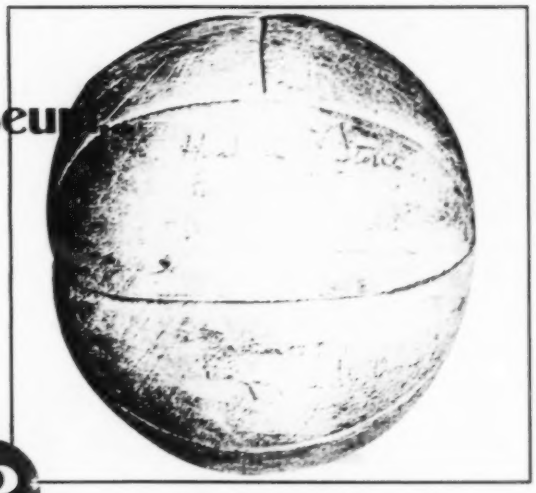
Letters from schoolchildren who were special to Mr. and Mrs. Hoover are stored in the Presidential Library. Do you know where these children went to school?

The library contains items related to Lou Henry Hoover's work with this organization for girls. What is it? (Hint: the group is famous for the cookies its members sell.)

Herbert Hoover Presidential Museum

11

Nuggets of this valuable mineral were taken from mines in Australia. What is it?



12

This ball was signed by members of Hoover's Cabinet who played a game with him on the South Lawn of the White House. What's the game called?

Answers:

1. A trundle bed. During the day, it was rolled under the parents' bed. Baby sister Mary slept in a cradle.

2. A kraut cutter for making sauerkraut. The Hoovers grew cabbage in their vegetable garden. To operate this 19th century food processor, a head of cabbage was placed in the square wooden box of the cutter. Then the box could be moved back and forth, and a blade chopped the cabbage.

3. Bellows. As this tool is opened and closed, a strong current of air is forced through the end, stoking the flames.

4. A horse tail. It was used to calm a horse while it was being shod.

5. Abraham Lincoln. Hoover said later in life that Lincoln was his idol.

6. A bottle of ink fits in the hole. Students dipped their metal-tipped pens in ink.

7. One for the men and the other for women. An interior partition divided the worshippers, so the men and women entered through separate doors.

8. Long wooden benches. These undoubtedly were uncomfortable during lengthy meetings, as the Quaker worship service was called.

9. Near Camp Rapidan, the Hoovers' retreat in the Appalachian Mountains of Virginia. When the Hoovers discovered that the children in this poor, rural area did not have a place to attend school, the Hoovers paid for a school to be built and hired a teacher. The library's collection includes blueprints of the school, photos of the children and teacher, and correspondence with the teacher.

10. The Girl Scouts. Founder Juliette Low asked Mrs. Hoover to lead a Washington, D.C., Girl Scout troop. Mrs. Hoover headed up the troop in 1917-18 and later served in regional and national positions within the Girl Scouts until her death in 1944.

11. Gold. Long before he was president, Hoover worked as a mining engineer. He rode around Western Australia on a camel in search of veins to mine. He discovered the source of these nuggets.

12. Hooverball. A doctor developed the game to help President Hoover stay fit. Read all about it beginning on page 30.

Story by Katherine House
Photos 1 through 8, 11, 12 by Millie Frese
Photos 9 and 10 courtesy Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum

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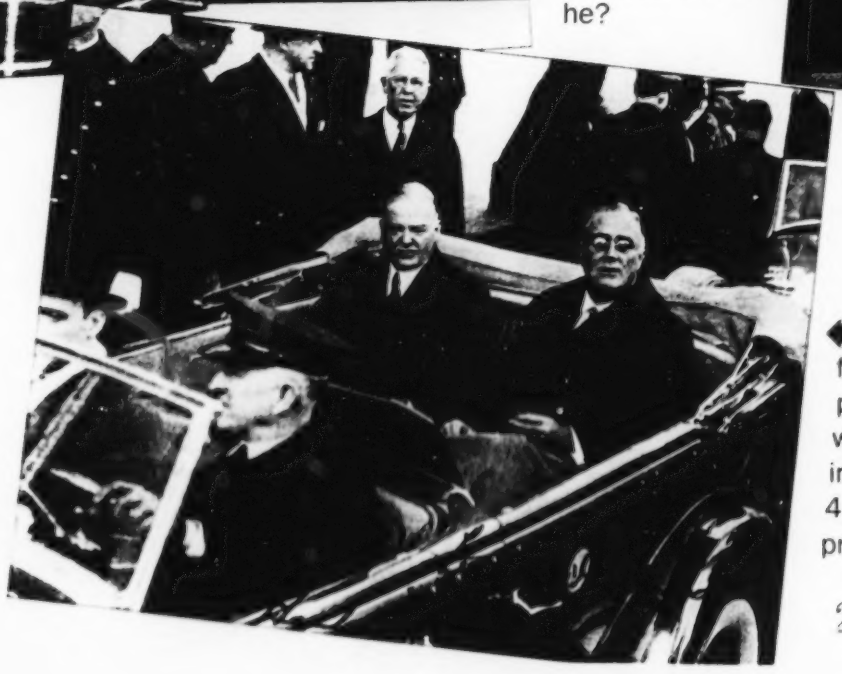
Who's With Hoover?

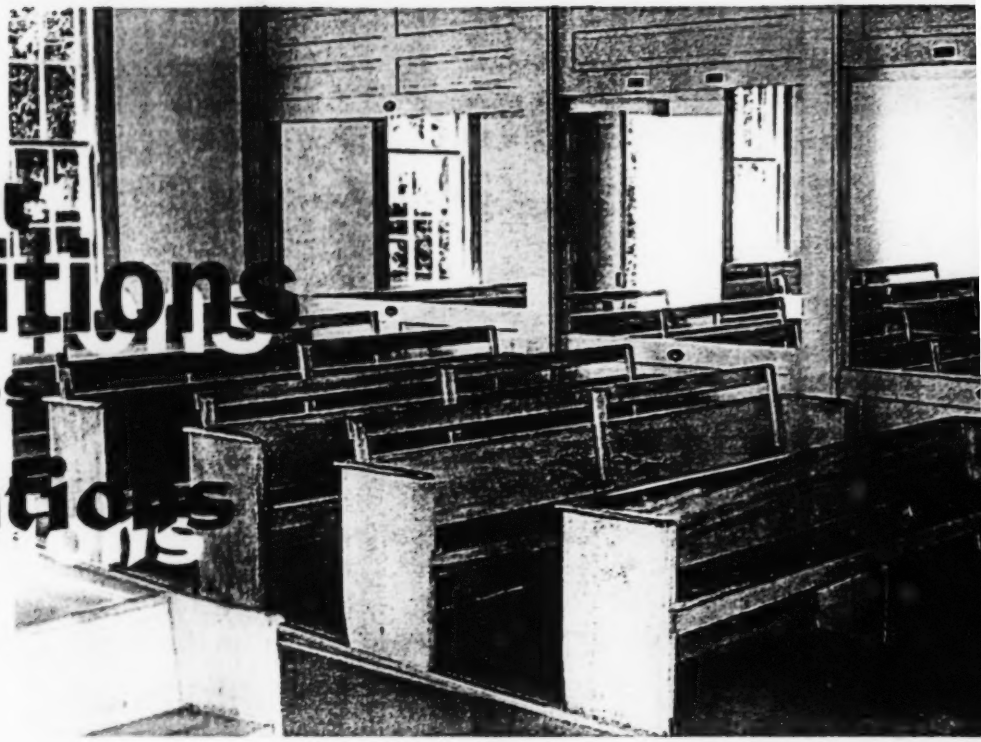
The person shown with President Hoover in this photo is out of uniform. This "Sultan of Swat" hit 714 home runs in 22 big league seasons and, in 1927, set the home run record of 60 in a 154-game season. Who is he?

This spinach-eating cartoon character put his muscles into raising money for the war effort during World War II. Who is he?



Herbert Hoover lost his bid for reelection in 1932. In this photo, President Hoover is riding with the president-elect to the inauguration ceremony on March 4, 1933. Can you name the president-elect?

Quaker Traditions Across Generations



by Katherine House

When Herbert Hoover wrote about his childhood, he always mentioned the influence of his Quaker faith. In his *Memoirs*, he recalled how difficult it was to sit still in the meetinghouse, where Quakers worshiped in silence. Hoover wrote, "Those who are acquainted with the Quaker faith, and who know the primitive furnishing of the Quaker meeting-house, the solemnity of the long hours of meeting awaiting the Spirit to move someone, will know the intense repression upon a ten-year-old boy who might not even count his toes."

Thirteen-year-old Ryan Howe of West Branch understands. Ryan attends unprogrammed or silent Quaker worship services similar to the ones Hoover attended approximately 120 years ago. As in Hoover's day, there is no minister at the West Branch Friends Meeting Conservative, becaus "We don't believe that we have to go through a pe son with special training to speak to God, like a pa tor or minister or rabbi," Ryan explained. "We b lieve that everyone has a part of God inside them."

Quakerism is a Christian religion founded England in the mid-17th century. The official nam for the religion is the Society of Friends. The nic name "Quaker" originated because its followe were said to tremble or quake with religious ze Founders of Quakerism protested the formal natu of established religion. Instead, they believed th they could experience God in their lives withc clergy, fancy church buildings or other symbo such as crosses or steeples.

"Sometimes if you're willed to speak [at meeting], you can talk about a problem or a concern or something you feel you need to say," explains Ryan. "You have to come to a couple meetings for worship before you can even remotely understand it." Today, some branches of the Society of Friends have pastors. Other aspects of Quakerism have changed, too.

Originally, Quakers did not use common names for days of the week. That's because some days (and months) were named after Norse or Roman gods. The Quakers gave each day of the week and month a number instead of a name. Sunday was First Day, and January was First Month, for example. Until earlier in this century, many Quakers used "plain speech"—the terms "thou" or "thee" for "you," and "thy" for "your." When Hoover attended meeting, men sat on one side of the meetinghouse and women on the other. Today, Ryan's family sits together on benches more comfortable than the plain wooden ones Hoover wrote about. These benches have cushions and backs, Ryan said.

Ryan Howe, 13, of West Branch, Iowa, attends Quaker worship services similar to the ones Herbert Hoover attended there 120 years ago.

Despite these changes, the core beliefs of the Society of Friends endure. Friends have always believed in living simple lives. When Hoover was young, this meant using plain speech and wearing simple clothing, including dark colored bonnets for women. They emphasize honesty and integrity in all aspects of their lives. Early proponents of equality for all people, Quakers often assisted escaped slaves to freedom on the Underground Railroad. Many Friends continue to be committed to pacifism, education, and humanitarian programs.

Historians often debate the impact Quakerism had on Hoover. Yet many agree his humanitarian efforts had their roots in the Quaker faith instilled in him by his parents in West Branch. In fact, Hoover enlisted the help of fellow Quakers in the American Friends Service Committee to help feed children in Europe and to provide relief in impoverished regions of the United States. As Secretary of Commerce, Hoover initiated standardization programs that improved efficiencies and eliminated waste, another core belief of Quakers.

Friends believe in equality for all people, so it is not surprising that the Hoovers invited the wife of a black congressman for tea at the White House. This gesture created an uproar in America decades before the civil rights movement demanded equal rights for people of all races. When Democrat Franklin Delano Roosevelt and others criticized Hoover and his presidency, someone asked Mrs. Hoover the effect of such talk on her husband. She responded, "Bert can take it better than most people because he has deeply engrained in him the Quaker feeling that nothing matters if you are right with God." ❖

"Dear Mr. Hoover"

Letters from Children to the President

Long after Herbert Hoover left the White House, children wrote him letters. They wanted to know about his childhood in Iowa and his presidency. They often asked his opinion on things that were important to them—whether it was how to become a good citizen or how to find a dog. The letters reached him at his apartment at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York even when they were addressed to the "Walled Off Hotel." Some of the letters and Mr. Hoover's responses were collected in a book called *On Growing Up*. Below is a sampling of letters included in that book. They are reprinted with permission of the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association Inc. in West Branch.

Dear President Hoover:
My Dad thinks you are the smartest living president, so I would like to have your opinion on this question: What are the chances of there ever being a woman president of the United States?

Best wishes to you,

Sincerely,
Kathy

My dear Kathy:
As a generalization, the men have not done too good a job of government in the world in the last forty-seven years, and the chances for the women are thereby increased.
With good wishes to you if you are a candidate for President about thirty years hence.

Dear Mr. Hoover:
I am studying famous people of Iowa in school and would like to know a little of your childlife in Iowa and other times you have spent in Iowa. I would be most grateful for any information or even a letter you would be able to send me.

Yours truly,
Susie

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My dear Susie:
As a youngster in Iowa, my recollections are of the winter snows, sliding down hills on a homemade sled, trapping rabbits, searching the woods for nuts. Plus doing the household and farm chores. And growing strong on my aunt's good cooking.

Dear Mr. Hoover:
Would you please tell me what it was like to carry the burdon of heading our great nation? What was the United States like during your term?
Thank you very much and my highest regards to a great American.

Respectfully yours,
Jacque

Dear Jacque:
I am indeed obliged for your gracious expressions. As to your questions:
During my term the people were subjected to the great trial of a world-wide depression which swept over us from Europe. We adopted measures to prevent suffering and laid the foundations for recovery. That recovery came alongside the recovery of the rest of the world but was somewhat delayed by some foolish legislation. Nevertheless, the fundamental economic strength of America was victorious over both depression and the Second World War.

Honorable Herbert Hoover
Walled Off Hotel
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:
I read you liked dogs. We have moved into a house with a yard. Mother says I can have a dog. What kind of a dog do you think is the best kind. Where can I get a dog? I have saved two dollars.

Your friend,
Michael

Dear Michael:
I like retrievers best for kids. They have an overpowering desire to play ball. And they are good guardians for the home. However, as your funds are limited, I suggest you write to the Mayor of your town and ask him to give you the first good dog that is sent to the "pound." Most Mayors like to help kids.

Pages from Lou's Scrapbooks

Lou Henry Hoover at the presidential retreat at Camp Rapidan, Virginia, August 19, 1932. The Hoovers were in the midst of a presidential campaign—and the Great Depression.

For a long time, few people other than her family and friends knew much about Lou Henry Hoover. That was, in part, because the Hoovers were modest and private. In public, they were formal, businesslike, and cool toward the press, not wanting to trade privacy for good publicity. Lou was funny, compassionate, well-traveled and educated. She was a published author, spoke several languages, and designed their home on the Stanford University campus—yet she acquired the public reputation of being one of the nation's most dull and inaccessible first ladies.

That image began to change in 1984 when her papers were "opened" at the Hoover Presidential Library. Herbert Hoover had requested that his wife's papers be sealed for 20 years after his death. This meant that no one could study her letters, journals, scrapbooks, and other documents. Perhaps President Hoover wanted to protect the privacy of people mentioned in her letters. Maybe he didn't want anyone to know whom she helped financially during the depression. But sealing her papers meant it would be 40 years from when she died in 1944 until researchers could get to know the real Lou Henry Hoover.

Reprinted here are a few items from the Lou Henry Hoover papers to help you get to know the First Lady from Waterloo, Iowa.

This is a page from a letter Lou wrote to her sons.

When you're the First Lady of the United States of America, you never know what you might receive as a gift! Lou Henry Hoover is holding a lion cub given to her on the campaign trail. The cub was then given to a zoo.

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This drawing comes from one of Lou's sketch books.

Try this—Exercising the Hoover

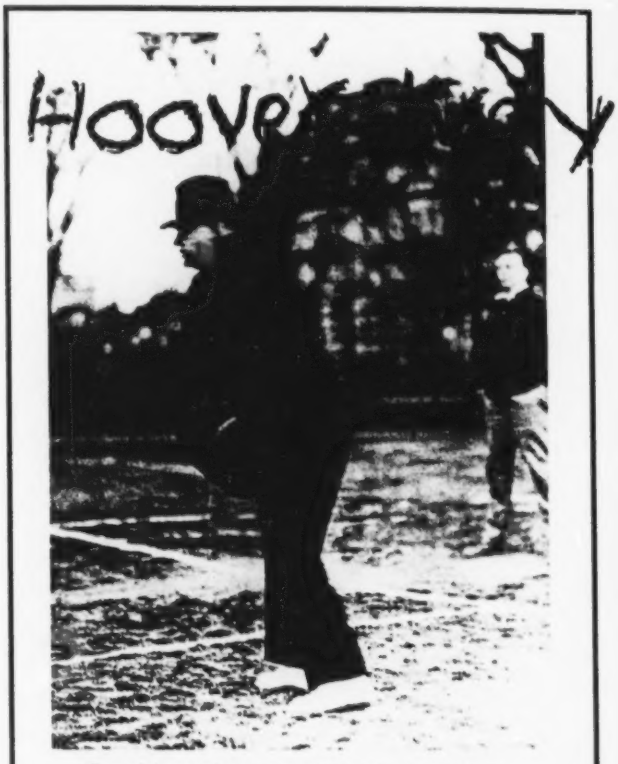
by Katherine House

President Hoover exercised every morning when he lived at the White House. Unlike other chief executives, he did not jog or swim or play golf. Instead, he played Hoover-ball, a sport that combines elements of tennis, volleyball, and medicine ball. The unusual game was developed by Hoover's doctor to keep the president fit.

During Hoover's presidency, Supreme Court justices, members of his **Cabinet** and other government officials gathered on the South Lawn of the White House for morning games. They began playing at 7 a.m. and played (for 30 minutes) every day except Sunday. They played regardless of snow or rain, although heavy rain forced them inside a handful of times. The group became known as the "Medicine Ball Cabinet."

Hoover-ball was inspired by a game of "bull-in-the-ring" that Hoover had played aboard the battleship *Utah* on his return from a trip to South America in 1928. Sailors stood in a circle and threw a medicine ball from one player to the next, while the "bull" in the center tried to intercept it. A medicine ball is a weighted leather ball that was patented in the 1890s.

In his *Memoirs*, Hoover wrote that Hoover-ball "required less skill than tennis, was faster and more vigorous, and therefore gave more exercise in a short time." His friend Will Irwin described the sport in a 1931 article for *Physical Culture* magazine titled "The President Watches His Waistline." He wrote that Hoover-ball is "more strenuous than either boxing, wrestling or football. It has the virtue of getting at nearly every muscle in the body."



President Hoover prepares to return the ball during one of the Hoover-ball games on the White House lawn.

During Hoover's presidency, medicine ball games were very popular. A reporter for the *New York Times Magazine* wrote in 1931, "Everybody may be playing it [Hoover-ball] next season." His prediction proved incorrect. Hoover was defeated the following year in his bid for reelection, and the sport's popularity ended with Hoover's. In 1988, however, the sport experienced a rebirth in West Branch. Since then, a Hoover-ball tournament has been held annually in August in conjunction with Hooverfest, a celebration of Hoover's life.

Cabinet: a group of advisors 32

Rules of the Game

Note: The rules have been adapted for Goldfinch *readers. A volleyball has been substituted for a 6-pound medicine ball. In tournament play, an 8-foot-high volleyball net is used, but a lower volleyball net or badminton net can be substituted.*

What You'll Need:

Volleyball
Volleyball Net
Yardstick or tape measure
Duct tape (for indoor games) or chalk dust (for outdoor games)
4 to 8 players (2 to 4 per team)

Before You Play:

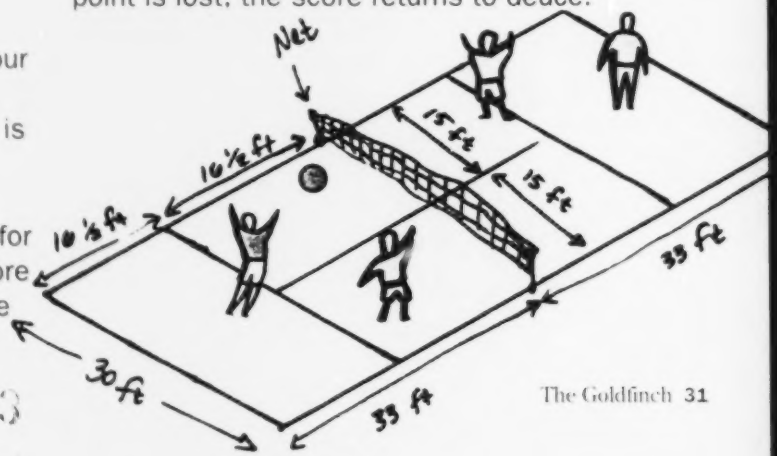
Measure out a court 66 feet long and 30 feet wide and mark it with tape if playing indoors or chalk dust if playing outside. Place the net at the halfway point. Then divide each team's court in half horizontally, as shown in the diagram.

How to Play:

* The ball is served from the back line. To serve, throw the ball over the net.
* The ball must be caught on the fly and immediately returned from the point where it was caught. Do not run with the ball or pass it to teammates.
* If you return the ball from the front half of your court, it must reach the back half of your opponent's court. If it does not, the opponent is awarded the point.
* The object is to catch the ball and return it across the net in a way that makes it difficult for your opponents to return it. Your team can score in four ways: if your opponent fails to catch the return, fails to return the ball across the net, returns the ball to the wrong court area or returns it out of bounds.
* If the ball hits the out-of-bounds line, it is a good return.
* If the ball hits the net on its way over, it is a live ball. Remember that if it was thrown from the front court, it must reach the opponent's back court to be good.
* If you catch the ball out of bounds or are carried out of bounds by the force of the ball, you may return in-bounds before you return the ball.
* Serving is rotated among the members of one team until the game is won. Teams alternate serving after each game.
* Teams change courts after every two games.

Scoring:

* Teams play best-of-five or best-of-seven games.
* Scoring is done exactly as it is in tennis—love (zero), 15 (first point), 30 (second point), and 40 (third point).
* If a score is tied at 40-40, "deuce" is called, and one team must score two points in a row to win. The first is an "advantage" point. If the next point is lost, the score returns to deuce.



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"No greater honor may come to an American than to have a school named after him."

Herbert Hoover
October 10, 1951

THE Goldfinch

US ISSN 0278-0208
State Historical Society of Iowa
402 Iowa Avenue
Iowa City, Iowa 52240-180(

Second-class postage paid
at Iowa City, Iowa

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